

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
APRIL 9, 2013**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

NEXT STEPS FOR DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT ON TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE (PHASE 2) REVIEW OF THE 2006 WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA ESTUARY

DISCUSSION

The State Water Board is in the process of conducting a phased review and update of the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan) to protect beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta. The Bay-Delta Plan identifies beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta, water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of those beneficial uses, and a program of implementation for achieving the water quality objectives. Phase 1 of that review is focused on southern Delta water quality and San Joaquin River flows. Phase 2 (Comprehensive Review) is focused on other changes that may be needed to the remainder of the Bay-Delta Plan to protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses and is the subject of this informational item.

On September 5 and 6, 2012, October 1 and 2, 2012, and November 13 and 14, 2012, the State Water Board held three workshops to obtain scientific information on the following topics related to Phase 2 of the State Water Board's review of the Bay-Delta Plan: (1) Ecosystem Changes and the Low Salinity Zone, (2) Bay-Delta Fishery Resources, and (3) Analytical Tools for Evaluating the Water Supply, Hydrodynamics, and Hydropower Effects of the Bay-Delta Plan. The workshops were facilitated by the State Water Board's consultant Dr. Brock Bernstein. Each workshop included a presentation by an invited expert panel organized by Dr. Peter Goodwin, Lead Scientist for the Delta Stewardship Council's (DSC) Science Program; interest panels organized by Dr. Bernstein; opportunities for public comment; and questions directed to panelists and stakeholders by the State Water Board and staff.

On January 2, 2013, Dr. Bernstein in cooperation with ICF International released a report summarizing the workshops' key points, including areas of agreement and disagreement, sources of disagreement and degree of certainty. Dr. Bernstein will provide a brief summary of the report. Dr. Goodwin will then present the DSC Science Program's recommendations related to next steps. The State Water Board will then hear public comments. The State Water Board may then provide direction to staff on next steps. However, the State Water Board will not be taking any formal action.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time. Informational Item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time. Informational Item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This item is being brought before the State Water Board for informational purposes only.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012: Comprehensively address water quality protection and restoration of the relationship between water supply and water quality, and describe the connections between water quality, water quantity, and climate change, throughout California's water planning processes.